

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SYE-00 MCT-01 SSO-00 HA-05
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 INRE-00 /035 W
-----099462 161503Z /53
O R 161430Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2334
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4538

FRANKFURT FOR RSS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, PORS, ASEC, TU, US
SUBJ: TERRORIST INCIDENT INVOLVING U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE

1. ON JUNE 15 AT 10:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, COUNSELOR FOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CHARLES E. COURTNEY, WAS ROBBED AT
GUNPOINT ON A SECLUDED ROAD NEXT TO THE ANKARA AIR STATION.
COURTNEY WAS DRIVING HIS SON AND THE SON OF THE DEFENSE
ATTACHE HOME FROM THE MOVIE THEATRE AT ANKARA AIR STATION.
THE ROAD IS UNLIT, UNIMPROVED AND INFREQUENTLY USED. IN THE
PAST THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS
HARRASSING INDIVIDUALS ON THE ROAD, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST
REPORT OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS ARMED AND OF THE
AGE THAT MR. COURTNEY INDICATES.

2. ACCORDING TO MR. COURTNEY THREE INDIVIDUALS
STOPPED THE CAR. THEY WERE ARMED, TWO WITH AUTOMATIC
WEAPONS AND THE OTHER WITH A REVOLVER. ALL THREE
WORE DARK RED BANDANAS AROUND THEIR HEADS AND FACES AND
WERE SIMILARLY DRESSED.

3. ONE STARTED TO ENTER THE CAR, BUT STOPPED
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BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT IN THE CAR. THINKING
THE THREE WANTED TO STEAL HIS CAR, COURTNEY OFFERED
HIS CAR KEYS AND ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE THE CAR, BUT WAS
PUSHED BACK. NEXT, COURTNEY OFFERED HIS WALLET. IT
WAS TAKEN, AS WAS THE SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND TWO RINGS
AND A WATCH COURTNEY WAS WEARING. THE GUNMEN
THEN ORDERED COURTNEY TO DRIVE AWAY WHILE

REASSURING HIM THEY INTENDED NO HARM.

4. THE INCIDENT TOOK APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTES. MR. COURTNEY WENT DIRECTLY TO THE EMBASSY WHERE THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR TUSLOG AND TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE (TNP) WERE NOTIFIED.

5. COURTNEY NOTED THAT THE MEN SPOKE A REFINED TURKISH, WERE CLEAN AND APPARENTLY OF COLLEGE AGE. ALTHOUGH THEY SEEMED WELL REHEARSED AND MENACING AT FIRST, THEY BECAME PUZZLED AND POLITE AFTER FAILING TO ENTER THE CAR. COURTNEY IS UNCERTAIN ROBBERY WAS THEIR PRIME MOTIVE.

6. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED WARNINGS THIS WEEK THAT VIOLENCE WAS EXPECTED BETWEEN RIGHTIST AND LEFTIST GROUPS TO COINCIDE WITH THE BEGINNING OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS AND IT IS POSSIBLE THE THREE GUNMEN WERE WAITING TO AMBUSH YOUTHS FROM A RIVAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION. FROM THEIR APPARENT CONFUSION AFTER FAILING TO ENTER THE CAR, IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THEY EXPECTED TO CAPTURE COURTNEY.

7. CHARGE INFORMED MFA OFFICIALS OF INCIDENT. AMBASSADOR PERTEV SUBASI, MFA DEPSEC GEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS CALLED CHARGE LATER TO CONVEY MESSAGE FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIMIN ECEVIT AND FONMIN OKCUN SAYING THAT THEY DEEPLY REGRET INCIDENT AND HAVE ASKED GOVERNOR OF ANKARA AND POLICE AUTHORITIES TO MAKE A FULL INVESTIGATION. DILLON

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, TERRORISTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation History:
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